Unit Elections by Carol Gray, National Judge Advocate

Although it is not listed in ORDER OF BUSINESS, Unit Elections are conducted as New Business.

Is your unit prepared for your annual unit elections? Have you notified ALL Senior members of the date, time, and place of your election, in writing, so the members receive the information at least 10 days prior to the date of the election? “In Writing” can be by e-mail, a newsletter containing scheduled meeting dates, post card, or as a special election notice. Some units have a nominating committee, although many do not. It is not true that nominations MUST be made at one or even two meetings prior to the meeting of the election. Should your unit have a nominating committee, the report of the nominating committee may be read at a meeting prior to the meeting when the unit will elect officers for the ensuing year, without comment nor any action taken.

At the meeting when the election is held, the report of the nominating committee must again be read immediately prior to the presiding officer opening the floor for nominations. Each elective office is elected individually. Neither a motion to accept the slate of a nominating committee nor a motion to retain the officers currently serving are in order. The presiding officer opens the nomination for each office to be elected, and until the presiding officer closes nominations when no further nominations are forthcoming, no member can make a motion to close the nominations.

Executive Board—Units may elect an Executive Committee (See page U-1, Article IV, for details). While such a board may transact unit business between meetings and can be beneficial to a unit in preparing a meeting agenda and expediting the business of the unit at the regular unit meeting, this committee does NOT make decisions for the unit. This committee can make recommendations; however, NONE of their actions can conflict with actions adopted by the unit. All decisions are made by the membership at a regular unit meeting with a quorum present. Minutes of all executive meetings must be read for approval at the following regular unit meeting.

Check List Following Unit Elections

- Officer installation by a proper installing officer.
- Former officers turn over all unit property to the newly elected/appointed officers.
- Complete and submit Officer Report form to state and national headquarters.
- Submit Financial Report form along with all supporting documentation to state and national headquarters.
- Complete the 990-N e-Postcard, and send confirmation to state and national headquarters.
Kentucky Juniors Working Hard to “Make a Difference”

Northern Kentucky Unit #19 juniors have been working hard in the community to help spread awareness of the sacrifices made by our nation’s Veterans. As one junior stated, “We wanted to give back to the Veterans. They’ve sacrificed their entire lives for us; it’s the least we can do.” The unit dedicated funds to their junior members to create their own Veterans Day projects and the DAV chapter matched those funds. The juniors brainstormed and began by making cards for Veterans.

They teamed up with their church pastor to conduct a special ceremony recognizing veterans. Each veteran in attendance received a coffee mug that read, “Thank you for your service, Thank you for our freedom,” and were patriotic in nature with the American Flag wrapped around the side. The Pastor read a poem that summed up Veteran appreciation, and ended with a standing ovation!

But they didn’t stop there! At the church children’s program, a small session was held to teach the importance of recognizing Veterans. The more than 60 children in attendance learned how to correctly fold an American Flag. They ended the session by coloring pages that said “Thank you Veteran.”

The Juniors visited restaurants that were offering free Veterans Day meals and passed out a total of 500 pens that read “Thank you Veteran.”

Nakia M. was excused from school on Veterans Day to participate in her special service project. It was her wish to spend Veterans Day with a small group of four homeless veterans her family had befriended through their volunteerism at a local Joseph House. They visited the Creation Museum in Kentucky and wrapped up their day at Olive Garden where the veterans enjoyed a free meal. Even though Nakia missed her school’s Veterans Day program, she was able to spread veterans’ awareness when she explained her absence from school.

The juniors loved showing their appreciation to the veterans in the community and as Nakia’s mother said, it was “such a blessing for the youth to be encouraged and supported to make a difference.”

Their hard work has not gone unnoticed, and they continue to find ways to involve the community with recognition of all that Veterans have done for us. Their next big project is making signs for the upcoming “Rolling Thunder” Rally in May. Thank you Juniors, and keep up the amazing work!

Electing Delegates to State and National Convention

It is that time of the year again. Units will elect delegates to attend the State and National Conventions. Please remember that when counting members to determine how many delegates your unit is entitled, annual members do count. Though the Constitution and Bylaws currently references life members, this change does not go into effect until July 1, 2015, as voted on during the 2014 National Convention.

National Convention delegate information can be found on page N-6, Section 4: Each state department shall be entitled to one elected delegate and one elected alternate. Each unit shall be entitled to one elected delegate and one elected alternate for its charter, and one elected delegate and one elected alternate for each twenty-five life members or major fraction thereof whose unit strength has been verified by national headquarters.

State Convention delegate information can be found on page S-2, Section 3: Each Unit shall be entitled to one (1) elected delegate and one (1) elected alternate for its Charter and one (1) elected delegate and one (1) elected alternate for each ten (10) life members or major fraction thereof whose membership dues have been received by National Headquarters prior to the end of each State Department’s fiscal year.

Remember, your annual members are included in your total membership count for the election of delegates and alternates to State and National Conventions. If you have any questions, please contact National Headquarters at 877.426.2838, option 5 or dava@dav.org.
**History** by Donna Henshaw, National History Chairman

Soon it will be summer and there will be so many fun activities to participate in. Why not take this time to send photographs for Commander LeeAnn’s history book?

I would like to have photos of District NEC’s and State Commanders. These pictures do not have to be formal studio photos. Candid shots can be warm, funny, and show a person’s personality. I would appreciate pictures of our National Chairmen too!

We have every reason to be proud of our organization and its members! Our auxiliary does so much for our veterans, their families, and our communities. If you have pictures of activities your unit or state department accomplished this year, I would love to have them.

Enjoy the spring and take lots of pictures!

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**FILLABLE FORMS**

Did you know there are forms available online in a fillable format? Check them out! [www.davauxiliary.org](http://www.davauxiliary.org).

- Officer Report
- Financial Report
- Annual Report Forms
- Junior Card Template
- Transfer Request Form

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**Generating Reports**

Commanders, Senior Vice Commanders, and Adjutants of units and state departments have system access to generate various reports by logging in to www.davmembers.org. Select **Request For Information**. The drop-down menu will contain the following reports:

- **Annual Financial Report**— Enter the unit/state fiscal year ending date (must be exact). Generate. The result will be the financial report with the specified fiscal year ending date requested.
- **Chapter/Unit List**— Provides a unit listing for your particular state with adjutant name and contact information by each respective unit. Search parameters can be selected to suit your search needs under the Chapter/Unit drop-down menu. Print options allow the user to print a list or a desired label format for mailing.
- **Chapter Status**— Produces a list of units within the state and their respective status.
- **Direct Deposit Advice**— Handy report for determining the total amount of membership distribute made by national headquarters to report on the annual financial report or to compare bank records. Enter the fiscal year date range and select generate.
- **Membership List**— Creates a list of the members and their respective status within a particular unit. Search parameters are available to meet specific search needs. Note the check mark next to Print Labels. Deselect the check if you are generating a membership listing. Keep the checkmark in if you choose to print labels (5160 compatible).
- **Membership Standings**— Not used. This is a DAV report only.
- **Membership Activity Report**— Membership activity is listed on this monthly report and mailed to the units. This particular report can be generated with a specific date range.
- **Officer Report**— Produces the officer report data on file at national headquarters.
- **Population Summary**— Generates a population summary of all units within your state department. This report can be run daily and reflects membership information as of the previous working day.
- **Recruitment—Dept/Chapter**— Do not use this report.

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Don’t forget to make your reservations for National Fall Conference! October 1—3, 2015, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky by calling 502-589-5200. Everyone is invited to attend!!
Making a difference in the lives of disabled veterans and their families.

DAV AUXILIARY

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DAV and Auxiliary, Together As One

Reminders—

- **Officer Reports**—When completing the report, insert the beginning/ending term dates. **Example: beginning May 2015 ending May 2016.**
- **990-N e-Postcard**—Units and state departments are required to file an annual 990-N e-Postcard, as required by the IRS. Failure to file for three consecutive years will result in the revocation of the unit’s tax exempt status. Once filing has been completed, and approved, please send the confirmation to state and national headquarters to remain in compliance with the national bylaws.
- **Forget-Me-Not Drives**—Income from Forget-Me-Not Drives are only to be used for services to disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors.
- **Membership Applications**—Please print or type as clearly as possible, and include all required information, when submitting a membership application.
- **National Convention Delegate Listing**—Don’t forget to send the yellow delegate listing to national headquarters!

**** Big Changes are Coming to Auxiliary Membership! ****

- **On July 1, 2015,** we will convert to a life membership program for all adult members. Encourage new members now to start their life membership with a $20 down payment. Remind members paying toward a life membership that they now have nearly an unlimited amount of time to meet their payment goal, and they have the flexibility to submit life membership payments at their convenience whether it be the minimum of one payment per year or more frequent payments to pay the balance in full.
- **Starting July 1, 2015,** there will be two Junior membership options:
  - **Complimentary**—In keeping with elimination of the annual membership structure, Junior memberships will be complimentary up to age 18 at which time they will be automatically converted to a part-life membership and payment billings will commence.
  - **Junior Life Membership** will also be available for those under the age of 18 should parents or grandparents wish to get an early start on a life membership for their juniors. The minimum down payment will be $20 and applied toward a $250 life membership amount.